

WHERE DO YOU SERVE GOD?

Colossians 3:22-23 ... "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

Our service to God is the most important thing we do. But, how and where should you serve God? Can you serve him only behind a pulpit, or by leading worship in church, or being a missionary, or teaching Sunday or Sabbath school? Today's verse states that in whatever kind of work we do, we are serving God IF we do it to please God. That last statement is critical, because we can find ourselves serving God on our own terms, according to our own rules, or to satisfy ourselves. I've known church musicians who cared little about the teaching in their church. They played in the band only because it was fun. And, it is fun, but that cannot be our primary motivation. I've known church elders or deacons who served mainly because it gave them a sense of power, and they fought constantly with the pastor.

The primary venue for serving God is not in your church. It is on the street, in your neighborhood, and at school or work. It is not your pastor's job to bring people to church; that is your job. His job is to teach you about God so you can mature in your faith, and to train you to share your faith outside the church. Without you sharing your faith with others and bringing them to church, your church's purpose is cut in half and your church will not grow.

If you are a trike driver, every passenger you carry is an opportunity for you to display Christ living in you. That means you are a courteous driver, you protect your passengers with your life, you do not cheat them, and you treat them with kindness. And, as the Holy Spirit reveals that a passenger is hurting or depressed, you offer that person the hope of Christ. If you are a government employee you serve God by avoiding corruption, revealing corruption when you see it, demonstrating a good work ethic, and respecting your boss and coworkers. And, when co-workers or members of the public reveal their troubles, you offer them the compassion of Jesus. If you are a teacher you treat every child with equal kindness and opportunity, you give the best of yourself to your students, and you are sensitive to special needs and troubled children, just as Christ is toward you.

Serving God looks differently for each of us. Some are called by God to serve as pastors, while others are called to serve as welders or fishermen. God may have called you to lead a Bible study, or he may have called you to be a civil servant by running for and holding office. Whatever God has called you to do, do it unto the Lord...as if your real boss is Jesus, not the man or woman who sits in the office and assigns your work, or the people who elected you. If your work pleases God, it will exceed the expectations of the people who employed or elected you. But the opposite is also true: If you fail God, you will fail everyone around you.

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